Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, On behalf of the citizens of South Dakota, I am pleased to join the National Association for Alcohol and Drug Addiction Counselor (NAADAC), the association for addiction professionals, in celebrating September 17, 2003, as National Addictions Counselor Day in South Dakota; and,

Whereas, Acknowledging September 17 offers us an opportunity to recognize and honor the work of addictions counselors and to educate the public and policymakers about the effectiveness of treatment; and,

Whereas, Counselors are uniquely qualified, frontline health care professionals who are indispensable in the process of guiding patients with addictive disorders to recovery; and,

Whereas, Alcohol and drug disorders are a major public health problem that costs American society more than $300 million each year, affecting millions of Americans of all ages, races, and ethnic backgrounds and in all communities, and which has a huge medical, societal, and economic cost; and,

Whereas, Chemical dependency is a treatable disease, and treatment of addiction is as successful as the treatment of other chronic diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, and asthma; and,

Whereas, Tens of thousands of addiction-focused health care professionals have dedicated their lives to increasing awareness of alcohol and drug disorders and to enhancing the care of individuals, families, and communities through treatment, education, and prevention programs; and,

Whereas, NAADAC, the nation's largest organization for addiction professionals, invites all residents of South Dakota to recognize the work of addictions counselors:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim September 17, 2003, as

ADDICTIONS COUNSELOR DAY

in South Dakota, and I urge all citizens to recognize, encourage, and support the work of men and women who serve as addictions counselors.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Eighth Day of September in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Three.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State